

Chief Information Officer

A Unique Opportunity: The California Earthquake Authority (CEA) seeks a creative, challenges-driven information technology professional to join CEA's executive-management team in building a highly effective information-technology infrastructure and workforce focused on improving business processes and delivering superior customer service.

CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE AUTHORITY

After the unprecedented losses caused by the 1994 Northridge earthquake, many insurers operating in California either stopped or severely restricted their sales of new homeowners-insurance policies because under state law, they were required to offer earthquake insurance when selling residential property insurance. In 1995, legislation was approved to create the CEA as a “public instrumentality of the state,” and in December 1996 the CEA began writing earthquake policies.

Today, the CEA is the largest earthquake-insurance provider in the United States, and with more than 820,000 policies in force, the CEA serves about 70% of California’s residential earthquake-insurance market. The CEA offers basic residential earthquake insurance to owners of dwellings, mobilehomes, and condominiums as well as to renters. Policies are sold only through CEA participating insurance companies, which process all CEA policy applications, renewals, invoices, and payments – and handle all CEA claims.

The CEA is a unique, public-private entity, administered by a Governing Board composed of five elected public officials: California’s Governor, Treasurer, and Insurance Commissioner (voting members), and the Speaker of the Assembly and President Pro-Tempore of the Senate (non-voting members). An 11-member Advisory Panel advises the Board.

Even though deemed a “public instrumentality,” the CEA is not an agency



or department of government and is privately financed, with primary revenues generated by insurance-premium receipts and investment income. A.M. Best, the world’s oldest and most authoritative rating agency of insurance companies, rates CEA’s financial strength at “A- (Excellent).”

CEA Web site: www.EarthquakeAuthority.com.

THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer of the CEA, the Chief Information Officer (CIO) serves as a member of CEA’s executive-management team.

The CIO directs and manages computing and information-technology strategic plans, policies, programs, and schedules for business and finance data processing, computer services, network communications, and management information services. The role of the CIO extends to CEA’s relationships with key vendors and participating insurance companies.

As a member of the executive management team, the CIO provides the technology vision and leadership to develop and implement information-technology initiatives and directs their alignment with CEA’s organizational objectives and goals, as follows:



- The CIO will define and build the appropriate infrastructure-melding technology, and the related human capital, to ensure technology services are deployed that effectively support the CEA.
- The CIO will ensure information and data integrity across all information-technology functions, and acting from an executive management position, monitor and validate CEA's compliance with security policies and regulatory requirements.
- The CIO will direct information-technology initiatives to support disaster recovery, governance, change management, security, and privacy, as well as IT policies, processes, controls, and portfolio and project management.

PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

The new Chief Information Officer will require expertise, energy, and commitment to address these challenges:

Process Improvement – Over its 16 years of operations, the CEA has developed a platform to coordinate with participating insurance companies to provide residential earthquake insurance and conduct related transactions, including financial transactions. A re-examination of the platform is needed, to allow the CEA and its participating insurance companies to streamline processes and deliver better customer service for

CEA policyholders. The new CIO will lead the Executive Team in completing the re-examination and development of related plans.

Organizational Structure

– The new CIO will assess the current organizational makeup of the information-technology team and determine the optimum structure, moving forward. This may necessitate hiring new CEA staff members as part of this new structure.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

It is anticipated that the Chief Information Officer will be a highly competent, experienced information-technology professional with outstanding leadership and management skills. The ideal candidate will combine strong business acumen with technical expertise. Because the CIO is a key contributor to the Executive Management Team and will develop relationships with numerous stakeholders, internal and external, excellent collaborative skills are paramount. The successful candidate will understand the use of technology in the property and casualty insurance industry and how technological solutions can enhance the interface between the CEA and its participating insurance

companies. The ideal candidate will be an outstanding communicator, both written and oral, with strong presentation abilities.

Education and Experience

A Bachelor's degree in computer

science or related field is required; Master's degree desired. At least 10 years of demonstrated experience at a senior level with IT systems and IT management, with a progression of increasing responsibilities in a diverse business environment, is preferred. Knowledge of and experience in the property and casualty insurance industry, from information-technology and business operations perspectives, is strongly desired.

THE SACRAMENTO AREA

Sacramento is California's capital city, the historic center of the Gold Rush, and the center of state government. The vibrant metropolis is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation and is known by a number of different nicknames: The "Camellia Capital" for the flower found so abundantly in Sacramento neighborhoods; the "City of Trees" describes the countless miles of tree-lined streets and wooded parks in the region; and of course, "River City" by virtue of two major rivers (the Sacramento and the American) that converge near historic Old Sacramento. Clearly, Sacramento is much more than just the "Capital City."

Sacramento is conveniently located halfway between the Pacific Ocean (the San Francisco Bay Area) to the west, and the Sierra Nevada mountains and Lake Tahoe to the east. The metropolitan area of Sacramento, including parts of Yolo, Placer, El Dorado, Sutter, and Yuba Counties, has a population of about 2.1 million;





Sacramento County has a population of 1.4 million. With a population of about 470,000, Sacramento is the 7th largest city in California.

Many factors contribute to the economic success of the region. A principal reason Sacramento has retained its attractiveness is that it offers some of the lowest housing prices of major cities in the state. Many new residents have relocated from the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California to take advantage of Sacramento's employment opportunities, moderate housing prices, reasonable cost of living, ease of mobility, and competitive salaries.

Sacramento is proud of its cultural diversity. In fact, TIME magazine declared Sacramento to be the most integrated city in the country.

The Sacramento region attracts those with an active lifestyle. Hiking, bicycling, golfing, snow-skiing and snowboarding, water-skiing, boating and house-boating, wine-tasting, and other recreational opportunities abound. Educational opportunities are plentiful, with the Sacramento region being home to California State University - Sacramento; University of California at Davis; Sacramento City College; McGeorge School of Law, and other community and four-year college programs.

COMPENSATION

Supplemented by a substantial benefit package, the annual salary for this executive-level position is \$185,000 – \$225,000+. Actual salary is negotiable and will depend on the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate. This is a contract position that will join an executive team that

includes other contract employees.

CEA's executive compensation package includes the following benefits:

- Medical Insurance – PPO and HMO plans through Blue Shield of California (fully paid for employee)
- Dental Insurance – Anthem-Blue Shield (fully paid for employee)
- Vision Insurance – Superior Vision (fully paid for employee)
- Group Term Life/AD&D Plans (\$50,000 benefit)
- Executive Disability Income Insurance – multiple options (employee contribution required)
- Vacation leave (negotiable)
- Sick leave – 3 weeks annual accrual
- Defined contribution benefit
- Voluntary tax-deferred 457 deferred compensation plan
- 11 paid holidays, as observed by the CEA generally

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

To be considered for this outstanding professional opportunity, please submit a cover letter, résumé, indication of current salary, and five work-related references. Résumé should reflect size (staff/budget) and scope of recent responsibilities, as well as years **and** months of beginning/ending dates of positions held.

This recruitment is **open until filled**. Résumés will be reviewed as they are submitted. **Apply as soon as possible.**

Forward your materials to:

CPS HR CONSULTING

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Sacramento, CA 95815
Ph. 916-263-1401
Fax 916-561-7205

E-mail: resumes@cps.ca.gov

Web site: www.cps.ca.gov/search

Résumés will be screened as they are submitted in relation to the criteria outlined in this brochure. Candidates deemed to have the most relevant backgrounds will be invited to participate in a preliminary screening interview with the consultant. The CEA will then select finalists to participate in interviews as soon as a pool of highly-qualified candidates is identified. An appointment is expected shortly thereafter following extensive reference/background checks to be coordinated with the successful candidate.

For additional information about this recruitment please contact Stuart Satow.

